

What is claimed is:

1. A method for allocating network resources for a call between a calling party and a called party, comprising:
 - responsive to receipt of addressing information identifying the called party, reserving a plurality of network resources for the call, the plurality of network resources being reserved before any one network resource from the plurality of reserved network resources is committed;
 - committing the reserved plurality of network resources for the call when the called party indicates acceptance for the call.
2. The invention of claim 1 wherein said committing comprises configuring the reserved plurality of network resources so as to cause them to transport voice information for the call.
3. The invention of claim 2 wherein said reserving comprises identifying network resources required for the call.
4. The invention of claim 3 wherein said network resources are resources of at least one packet-carrying network, and wherein said voice information for the call comprises packetized voice signals.
5. The invention of claim 3 further comprising initiating the alerting of a communication device associated with the called party subsequent to receipt of the addressing information but prior to the reserved plurality of network resources being committed for the call.
6. The invention of claim 5 wherein the alerting of the communication device associated with the called party comprises generating an audible signal.

7. The invention of claim 6 wherein acceptance for the call comprises the communication device being taken off-hook.

8. The invention of claim 7 wherein the communication device is a telephone.

9. The invention of claim 8 wherein the addressing information comprises a telephone number.

10. The invention of claim 5 wherein the communication device is a computer and wherein acceptance for the call comprises the computer being put in a computer-equivalent off-hook condition.

11. The invention of claim 5 wherein the communication device is a computer and wherein acceptance for the call comprises engaging in handshake signaling.

12. The invention of claim 5 wherein the communication device is a computer and wherein the addressing information comprises a communication network address.

13. A method for allocating resources of a packet-carrying network for a call between a calling communication device and a called communication device, comprising:

receiving from the calling communication device addressing information associated with the called communication device,

subsequent to receipt of said addressing information, reserving a plurality of network resources for the call, the plurality of network resources being reserved before any one network resource from the plurality of reserved network resources is committed,

subsequent to said receipt of said addressing information, causing an alerting to occur at the called communication device ; and

committing the reserved plurality of network resources for the call only after the called communication device goes off-hook.

14. The invention of 13 wherein said reserving comprises identifying network resources required for the call.

15. The invention of claim 14 wherein said committing comprises configuring the reserved plurality of network resources so as to cause them to transport voice information for the call.

16. The invention of claim 15 wherein said voice information for the call comprises packetized voice signals.

17. The invention of claim 16 wherein said alerting comprises generating an audible signal.

18. The invention of claim 17 wherein the called communication device is a telephone.

19. The invention of claim 18 wherein the addressing information comprises a telephone number.

20. The invention of claim 16 wherein the communication device is a computer that goes off-hook by engaging in handshake signaling.

21. The invention of claim 16 wherein the called communication device is a computer and wherein the addressing information comprises a communication network address.

22. The method of claim 13 wherein the plurality of network resources for the call are reserved based on a quality of service authorized by a service provider.
23. The method of claim 13 further comprising recording initial usage for the call once the reserved plurality of network resources is committed.
24. The method of claim 13 further comprising recording usage end for the call upon a terminating condition.
25. The method of claim 13 wherein at least one from the group of the calling party and the called party is untrusted.